FBIS DAILY REPORT

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EXPERT SAYS HAGUE COURT CANNOT DECIDE BEAGLE CASE

PY312151Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1902 GMT 31 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Aug (AFP)--An Argentine professor replied to the Chilean Government today, stating that the Hague International Court of Justice is unqualified to intervene in the controversy between Argentina and Chile over the Beagle Channel.

Eduardo Tombesi, a professor in international law, gave a press conference in Buenos Aires during which he explained that it is impossible to present any appeal before the international court or to bring action on the difference between the two countries.

According to Tombesi, if Chile presents a petition for the Hague Court to intervene in the litigation, the court must declare itself disqualified, since the 1972 treaty only qualified the court to intervene in matters arising after that year.

The Beagle issue was already in dispute and was the subject of an arbitration before the 1972 treaty was signed.

Chilean Envoy's Remarks

PY010019Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2130 GMT 31 Aug 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 31 Aug (NA)--Sergio Onofre Jarpa Reyes, Chilean ambassador to Argentina, expressed his certainty that "very soon an equitable agreement will be achieved" between the two countries regarding the border situation in the southern area and that "it will open another stage in our relations."

Jarpa made these remarks at the metropolitan airport just after returning from Bahia Blanca where he made a 48-hour visit.

When asked about the course of the negotiations to establish the definite border between the two countries in the extreme south, the diplomat said: "I am certain that very soon an equitable agreement will be achieved and that it will open a new stage in our relations."

Jarpa indicated, as a demonstration of the scope of cooperation between the two counties, that during his visit to Bahia Blanca he had met with officials and people who are promoting the project for the Bahia Blanca [Argentina] Conception [Chile] railroad.

Regarding this matter, he indicated that on the Argentine side the railroad has reached Zapala [Neuquen Province bordering Chile] and on the Chilean side it has reached Curacautin, "therefore there is still a very small sector to be built on our side."

He added that "the work may resume in the very near future and thus we will have another trade and human link in the area which will be very interesting for its development, both in Argentina and Chile: We have two ports, in Geniero in Bahia Blanca and those of San Vicente and Talcanuan in Chile." [sentence as received]

VI. 1 Sep 78 B R A Z I L

MILITARY ASSISTANCE PACT WITH U.S. WILL NOT BE SIGNED

PY311707Y Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 31 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Itamaraty spokesman (Nelson Fonseca) has said that Brazil will not negotiate the signing of a new military assistance agreement with the United States. The Itamaraty spokesman made this statement in connection with a report published in O CORREIO BRASILIENSE of Brasilia, which he said is unfounded. Last year Brazil cancelled the military agreement with the United States that had been in force since the end of World War II.

Pact With U.S. Denied

PY311425Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 31 Aug 78

[Text] In Brasilia yesterday, Planalto spokesman Col Ruben Ludwig said that he is unaware of the signing of a new military agreement between Brazil and the United States. Colonel Ludwig made this statement in connection with reports published in a newspaper in Brasilia, indicating that a U.S. military mission will come to Brazil to negotiate a new agreement.

GEISEL OUTLINES HOPES FOR DEMOCRACY, DEVELOPMENT

PY010147Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 31 Aug 78 PY

[Impromptu speech by Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel in Uberlandia, Minas Gerais State, commemorating 90th anniversary of this city]

[Excerpt] My final point is one of a political nature, since we cannot focus our attention only on economic and social issues, which must be associated with political problems. Despite what our enemies contend, the political aspect has been a permanent concern of my government. We are not merely concerned with politics but primarily in good politics. We want democracy, real democracy and not just democracy on paper. We want the people and their leaders to become educated for democracy, so that they may enjoy their freedom without overlooking their responsibility for their families, their community, and the nation.

It is within this political framework [applause] that we have been making a permanent search for improvement, evidence of which is the proposal for a constitutional amendment I submitted some time ago to the National Congress. I trust that this proposal will be approved for the good of Brazil and its people, to eliminate the exceptional laws and to provide the government with the instruments to keep the country moving forward so that it may work toward achieving its highest objectives, that is, its greatness and the well-being of its people. [applause] For this, I count on the general support of the Brazilian people who, I believe, are aware of my government's efforts, evidence of which is the large number of people gathered here. [passage indistinct] I believe that through these contacts we have come to understand each other. that we share common desires. I believe that you are also aware of my problems, of my objectives and recognize that I have good motives. I hope the amendment will be approved. I hope even more that on 15 November the people will honor their objectives by voting for our candidates. [applause] I trust that our party, which is the revolution's party and which has never failed to support the government, will win on 15 November, that its representatives will win on 15 November, those who will in fact represent the people's will, since they will be the ones who will materialize and support the new government to take office in March next year. [applause]

I trust the Brazilian people, just as I trust the people of Uberlandia. I know you will give us your support. Thank you. [applause]

HIGH IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO CUBILLOS' PRC TRIP

PY3131402 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1830 GMT 31 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 31 Aug (TELAM-EFE)--It was emphasized here today that the Chilean Government attaches high political and economic significance to Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos' upcoming visit to the PRC. The foreign minister, who will be accompanied by a delegation of experts, has been making arrangements with Peking's diplomatic mission in Santiago regarding the main aspects of his visit to the PRC in October. The foreign minister, who will travel this afternoon to Rome to attend the assumption ceremony of Pope John Paul I, has termed the PRC an extraordinarily interesting country.

MINEWORKERS REJECT GOVERNMENT PACT, CONTINUE BOYCOTT

PY311855Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1601 GMT 31 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Chuquicamata, Chile, 31 Aug (AFP)--It was reported here today that the mineworkers of this north Chilean copper field have decided to continue their demand for higher salaries. At a tense assembly attended by over 5,000 workers, the union rank and file invalidated an agreement that union leaders signed 2 days ago with the State Copper Corporation [CODELCO].

A majority of the assembly decided to continue the meal boycott that began 3 weeks ago. The mineworkers refuse to enter the dining halls of the mine to support their salary requests.

Last Tuesday the union leaders agreed to end the movement and CODELCO consented to reinstate six workers who had spoken at an earlier assembly. It was learned that the union leaders who reached that agreement, now invalidated by the grassroots, were whistled at and taunted in the meeting today.

The mineworkers approved a continuation of the dining hall boycott until next Friday, while waiting for a reply to their requests from the officials. Strikes were outlawed in Chile 5 years ago, when the armed forces ousted the late Socialist President Salvador Allende, and observers think that the pressure movement of the copper miners is one of the most serious labor conflicts since then.

Chuquicamata is the largest open pit copper mine in the world; it is located 1,560 km north of Santiago, Chile.

Cooling-Off Period

PY010128Y Santiago Chile Cadena Agricultura in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Sep 78 PY

[Text] The board of the Copper Workers Confederation announced that it has decided not to intervene or mediate in the problem that has emerged in the Chuquicamata Mine as a result of the results of the assembly conducted by mineworkers. Bernardino Castillo, the confederation's president, and other leaders of the organization announced the decision for a cooling-off period until the enterprise's reaction is made known. Castillo added that the agreement reached by the assembly means that the grassroots have gone over the heads of the leaders, leaving them in an uncomfortable position for beginning negotiations.

UNION LEADERS TO MEET TURBAY, SEEK WAGE INCREASE

PA312344Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1919 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 31 Aug (AFP)--Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay today agreed to hold a dialog "without pressure" with union leaders to solve the country's great problems. Turbay sent a message to Tulio Cuevas, president of the Conservative Union of Workers of Colombia (UTC), who had asked for a meeting to discuss the current labor situation. The president said he would be willing to hold the dialog but without pressure from either the government or union leaders. It has been learned that the UTC's decision will be supported by the other labor groups which will present to the government a request for a general wage and salary increase.

DEFENSE MINISTER ANNOUNCES ANTIGUERRILLA OFFENSIVE

PA311558Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva announced today that there will be an unrestrained offensive against guerrilla activities. The minister said that guerrilla leaders have been acting as true bandits in their attacks against peasants in areas of Santander and central Magdalena. In a speech before the Senate's second commission, the military chief said that a battalion will soon be sent to reinforce the regular contingent operating in those areas in a war to the death against those sowing death and chaos.

The defense minister complained about the people's indifference toward political problems such as the one in Cimitarra where, he said, the communist party is promoting violence and is forcing the people to sell their property at low prices in dirty deals. In addition to this, those who do not cooperate in the illegal exploitation of wood and in the production of rice are being killed, the minister said. The defense minister said that the military fronts in Santander and central Magdalena will be reinforced to prevent the guerrillas' and communists' attempts to block regular army operations. He said that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] has announced that it will obstruct the construction of roads, airports and military hospitals.

The minister said that the peasants who have been killed recently by the guerrillas were not army informers. Camacho Leyva stated: There has been much killing in that area because of the adverse results the communists experienced in the past elections. The FARC, he said, credits itself with eliminating alleged criminals but its members are actually murdering people and acting as bandits and common criminals.

Meanwhile, Senator Norberto Morales Vallestero complained about the tremendous pressure being applied against the people of the Santander region since, in addition to enduring guerrilla actions, they are harassed and kept under strict surveillance by the army, which sees them as potential supporters of subversive activities.

M-19 Bulletin Reported

PA311640Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Bulletin issued by the Press Office of the Presidency of the Republic on 30 August 1978]

[Text] M-19 Call for Rebellion

A few hours ago the self-styled M-19 issued a bulletin containing subversive instructions to alter public order throughout the country. This is an open declaration of war against the new government and Colombian democratic institutions. These are the instructions mentioned in the M-19 bulletin: It is time to start collecting the materials to be used in the struggle: thumbtacks, clamps, bottles, gasoline and wicks. It is time to find out what new weapons can be used so that in the middle of the struggle there will be nothing to complain about. Damn it, what we need are chocks [tacos], fuses, bombs and grenades. Since we are aware that we are going to struggle with inferior weapons, we must try to take the enemy by surprise and must decide on what grounds we are going to face and elude him. It is time to start thinking about who is going to be giving the orders in your combat group. We do not want to hear the same excuse about everyone giving orders but no one obeying them. It is time to train the novices on how to make the (miguelitos), prepare the thumbtacks and the incendiary bombs and how to carry and use them.

These subversive instructions issued by the M-19 and supported by the Popular Liberation Army and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia were distributed to the different news media through the mail and by unidentified messengers.

GOVERNMENT ENACTS SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES AGAINST CRIME

PA311653Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2034 GMT 30 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 30 Aug (EFE)--Official sources said today that the Colombian Government has adopted special measures to safeguard national security from drug trafficking. The official source said that the measures, which were drafted and approved by the government, justice and defense ministers, have been in force throughout the country for the past 2 weeks. The government is trying to insure the existence of peace in the nation, which has been virtually threatened by a gigantic labor rally planned for 14 September to commemorate the tragic events of a year ago when several dozen persons died. The government is also trying to control drug trafficking, which is seriously threatening the nation's economy, and kidnaping, which has become an important undertaking that has claimed more than nine victims this year in Bogota alone.

Urban crime, which is also worrying Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala's government, has turned the large cities into centers of underworld operations, especially robbery and murder.

Conservative Party Position

PA311601Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Raimundo Emiliani Roman, president of the National Board of Directors of the Alvarist group of the Conservative Party, today appealed to all Colombians to back the authorities in their struggle against crime. The country is experiencing an emergency situation and the government must adopt forceful actions, Emiliani Roman stated.

The Conservative Party leader held a meeting with President Turbay Ayala this morning. He stated: [begin recording] Public order is a most important issue. It is being threatened. The M-19 has even issued a war communique against the state, the government and society as a whole. Other revolutionary movements are doing the same, so the government must take forceful actions. There must be complete solidarity from the people and from politicians in support of the measures that the government will adopt in this regard. [end recording] Raimundo Emiliani Roman stated that he and the president studied the political situation prevailing in several departments as a result of bureaucratic appointments.

MINERS DECIDE TO REMAIN ON INDEFINITE STRIKE

PA010352Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2229 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[By Miguel Paredes]

[Excerpts] Lima, 31 Aug (LATIN)--Leaders of 50,000 miners today agreed to remain on a nationwide strike indefinitely, defying a government order which demanded that they return to work tomorrow or face mass dismissals.

The workers' decision to continue the strike was endorsed this afternoon in a massive assembly in which delegates of 45 rank-and-file organizations of small, medium and large mining sectors participated.

At a news conference, Jacinto Pozo, member of the strikers' "Struggle Committee," said: "We will not end the strike until the government reinstates those dismissed and repeals the law on labor stability."

He added that the smelting and refining of metals at the government-owned Central Peruvian Mining enterprise [CENTROMINPERU] in the Andean province of La Aroya remained paralyzed. A few days ago this entity declared that it could not meet the demand for silver, lead and zinc due to "circumstances beyond its control."

Pozo also stated that the miners of the U.S. Southern Peru Copper Corporation will not return to work either. This company operates mines in Toquepala and Cuajone, in southern Peru, which are the main copper mining centers.

Pozo announced that approximately 20 second-rank leaders who work at CENTROMINPERU and at Southern Peru Copper Corporation have been arrested. He said that police are impeding the entry of food to the Toquepala encampment and have also cut water and electricity services.

He added that approximately 10,000 miners who arrived in this capital from the central Andean region 2 weeks ago in a "march of sacrifice" will remain here until the miners are reinstated.

The miners, together with their wives and children, have pitched tents in the gardens of the University of San Marcos and are virtually living off public charity.

State of Emergency Defended

PY311839Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Aug 78 PY

[Station editorial]

[Text] Some people wrongly believe that the state of emergency and the suspension of individual guarantees under special circumstances are a repressive measure and an attack on freedom. These measures are provided by law to the executive branch precisely to guarantee public order and peace in the nation. If the government adopts these measures it is only a warning to the public not to make the mistake of violating public order and the people's rights, as immediate sanctions [words indistinct].

In this particular case, the state of emergency and the suspension of individual guarantees in five departments is aimed at protecting the mineworkers who want to return to their work centers. This is a protection for mineworkers and their families [words indistinct] aimed at preventing disorder and violence by picket lines on the pretext of support for the miners. The revolutionary government does not want to use violence.

MORALES REAFFIRMS TRANSFER OF POLITICAL POWER TO CIVILIANS

PY311831Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Aug 78 PY

[Excerpt] President Francisco Morales Bermudez yesterday reaffirmed the revolutionary government's decision to continue on the difficult but the most advantageous and necessary road of starting the economic recovery and achieving the transfer of power to civilians.

The president spoke on the 56th anniversary of the Civil Guard. He said that it would have been easier to choose either the political or the economic goal and not put the same emphasis in making them function politically. He added: But we, in our study, made a decision to choose the most difficult but the most advantageous and necessary road for the country.

Morales Bermudez said that this decision breaks up a pattern which we may call traditional in domestic policy, maintained both by Peruvians and foreigners who live in this country and love Peru.

PCP TO COORDINATE LEFTIST GROUPS IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

PA010207Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 29 Aug 78 p 4 PA

[Text] The Peruvian Communist Party [PCP] will coordinate the efforts of its members and of members of other leftist groups in order to participate and promote action in the Constituent Assembly.

This was established last night at a meeting of the PCP Political Commission that was headed by Education Secretary Pedro Mayta.

PCP participation in any election that may be scheduled was also discussed at the meeting. This means that the PCP will present candidates in the municipal elections.

Raul Acosta Salas, PCP deputy secretary and member of the Constituent Assembly, reported that the program for the celebration of the party's 50th anniversary was also discussed during the meeting.

The main event of the celebration will be a rally to be held at a place yet to be determined. The main speaker at the event will be Secretary General Jorge del Prado.

LEFTISTS MUST ABANDON IDEOLOGICAL DISPUTES, SEEK HARMONY

PA311916Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 25 Aug 78 p 2 PA

[Editorial: "For a Needed Change in Attitudes"]

[Text] Some Marxist extreme left politicians, now acting as Constituent Assembly representatives, have directly participated in the unrest that is significantly disrupting normal activities in the country's important mining centers.

There are two fundamental points in this unusual situation: First, the representatives in question are making improper use of a position gained by popular vote. They are directing their efforts not at achieving labor and social peace, as they should, but at contradictory purposes and objectives. They want to destabilize the transfer of power process within the established time schedule.

Second, since the essential purpose of the Constituent Assembly is to draft a new republican constitution, it is to be expected that the representatives will work for the country's supreme interests, overcoming sectarian ideological commitments that have little or nothing to do with our current reality.

We are all aware of the importance of mining production for the national economy and of the losses (in many millions of soles daily) caused by a strike. This strike has exclusively political purposes and openly distorts the real interests of labor and the conquests of hundreds of workers. This situation must awaken public opinion to those who ignore their unavoidable duties and responsibilities and instead become involved in agitation that affects the national economy, causing an enormous drain in our foreign currencies earned from the export of our raw materials such as copper, iron, zinc, silver, gold and other products.

Although we believe that these concepts are just, timely and necessary, it is up to the Constituent Assembly, employing its rules of conduct, to express itself clearly and frankly on the conduct of those representatives whose decisive influence in the strikes in five mining zones has been fully established.

Therefore, there is great expectation among the people concerning developments within the assembly acting within the democratic and sovereign channels that the present administration guarantees. We believe it is an opportune time to appeal to those who have the historical responsibility of drafting the new constitutional charter to thoroughly consider how important it will be for the country's future to establish the basis for democratic institutions that will be greatly superior to the simple formula we had in the past. The lessons of the past must serve to prevent the same mistakes.

EXPRESO PRAISES REMARKS OF U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL

PA0102502Y Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 25 Aug 78 p 14 PA

[Editorial: "Cooperation With Peru"]

[Text] Viron Vaky, the new U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, said in a meeting with Peruvian Ambassador Carlos Garcia Bedoya that his country is willing to discuss renegotiation of Peru's foreign debt.

He also said that he believed that the 18 July Constituent Assembly elections in Lima were exemplary and that the United States is studying the expansion of its cooperation program.

These statements from a person such as Vaky, who is aware of our continent's problems and whose experience in this field justifies his appointment to his high post, have sufficient authority to counteract the ill-willed reports that frequently circulate abroad regarding Peruvian problems.

The support of the United States for a solution of Peru's foreign debt problems is an expression of confidence in our government's economic policy. Vaky's opinion on the July elections shows the honesty with which the political timetable for the establishment of a democratic regime is being fulfilled.

MINISTER OUTLINES PERUVIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PY311834Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Javier Silva Ruete said during a press conference for foreign reporters that adopted and future measures and the actions being carried out regarding priority production activities, aimed at rapid national economic recovery, will be achieved within the 2 and 1/2 year period that has been mentioned several times.

Silva Ruete explained that this recovery will not only help overcome the current serious crisis, but will also allow the dynamic growth of Peru's main economic sectors.

Silva Ruete also said that final studies are being made to write a law to promote non-traditional exports. He explained that this law will help increase industrial exports and will gradually change the structure of foreign trade toward export of more finished products and technology and less raw materials, thereby changing Peru's traditional dependency.

He announced that studies are also being performed to pass a law to help mobilize small enterprises and permit new businessmen to emerge in the country. He mentioned a series of measures to mobilize the construction industry as a priority activity and also the development of mining and agriculture.

The minister declared that the government has begun negotiations with the World Bank to obtain a credit of approximately $100 million to promote the development of strategic economic sectors. He said that negotiations are already in progress and that they will end before the end of this year. Similar negotiations for the same amount are also being carried out with the IDB, he added.

He indicated that the ministry is preparing all the technical elements to reorganize the foreign debt so that an important part of Peru's export resources can be used for national development and not just to pay the foreign debt. He said that this debt is currently extremely high and that it is affecting the country's import capabilities.

Silva Ruete also announced that the country will be able to renegotiate its foreign debt on a long term basis in the Paris Club by the end of October. He said that he is expecting that the international community will be sensible enough to accept the Peruvian proposal, which will be based on a strict plan in accordance with our balance of payments.

The minister emphasized the various austerity measures that are being implemented to reduce public expenditures. In this regard, he cited the rational and technical reorganization of various state budgets. He also referred to laws 22,264 and 22,265, which recently approved controlling public expenditures, changing the structure of public expenditures in relation to routine expenditures, and establishing easy rules for performing budget evaluations--particularly concerning 1979 and 1980, years during which the budget deficit will be gradually reduced to keep it under control or perhaps to eliminate it entirely.

He warned, however, that the objective is not to eliminate public employees. He said that the idea is that those positions that are creating administrative expenditures but not generating any wealth and obstructing productive development will be converted into positions creating wealth, in order to help balance expenditures.

The minister also regretted the fact that the mining strike is creating a loss of $2.5 million a day, which is obviously worsening the economic situation. He said that the government had to act with firmness to prevent a labor conflict, which must be resolved legally, from becoming an aggression against the national economy and further damaging the current economic crisis.

The minister reiterated that institutions and organizations which are not useful will be gradually reduced. He also said that some public enterprises which have no specific purpose within the economic development program will be transferred in order to become more useful. Silva Ruete said that various sectors are now selecting and evaluating these enterprises in order to transfer them to private hands and that a study is also being made to associate the state with private capital, if necessary.

CONSALVI ASKS OAS AID IN RESOLVING NICARAGUAN CRISIS

PA312243Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Text] At the request of Venezuela, the OAS will seek a peaceful solution to the situation in Nicaragua. Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi said that Venezuela will strive so that, in agreement with the other OAS members, measures will be taken to find a solution to the Nicaraguan crisis.

The foreign minister said that a break in diplomatic relations with Nicaragua is ruled out for the time being. He reported that he has presented a report to President Carlos Andres Perez on the current situation in Nicaragua, which has been subjected to a cruel dictatorship for 40 years.

It has been learned that President Perez is concerned about the latest events in Nicaragua. According to an ASSOCIATED PRESS report, President Perez asked a Venezuelan newsman in Managua to come home soon because the situation in Nicaragua is very bad.

MEP REPLIES FAVORABLY TO MIR UNITY PROPOSAL

PA311700Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 30 Aug 78 PA

[Text] The Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] has received its first response from a political party regarding its unity proposal. The announcement was made by MIR Secretary General Moises Moleiro, who explained that Americo Martin recently presented a series of proposals on behalf of the MIR to the other leftist organizations. These proposals are based on the effective unity of the left after the conclusion of the present electoral campaign.

The first party to formally respond to these proposals, Moleiro said, was the People's Electoral Movement [MEP]. Moleiro released a letter signed by MEP Secretary General Jesus Angel Paz Galarraga which says that MEP generally shares MIR's ideas. Paz Galarraga pointed out that the proposal is perfectly within MEP's general aspirations as voiced in different meetings with the leftist parties.

NEWSMAN DEPORTED FOLLOWING SOMOZA NEWS CONFERENCE

PA311336Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2251 GMT 30 Aug 78 PA

[Excerpt] Caracas, 30 Aug (AFP)--Venezuelan journalist Rafael Rinol Melendez, who was arrested in Managua on Tuesday, was deported today to Venezuela. The newsman was sent to Managua by television channel four to cover the Nicaraguan situation. He participated in Somoza's news conference held on Tuesday, after which he was arrested. He spent 24 hours in the hands of the Nicaraguan authorities and was deported to Venezuela today.

WAGE INCREASES TO GO INTO EFFECT IN JANUARY

PA311656Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1220 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Government financial adviser Dr Ernesto Perez Balladares has said that the wage increase for government employees will go into effect in January 1979 and that it will primarily benefit employees earning over 250 balboas per month. The increase cannot go into effect immediately because it involves the expenditure of 15 million to 18 million balboas, which the present budget cannot absorb, Perez Balladares said.

Private enterprise circles have already begun to criticize this measure--which the chief of government has said will also be applied to the private sector--on the grounds that it may worsen rather than alleviate the problem of the high cost of living.

A reduction in taxes on automobiles is also being studied in an effort to reduce their cost, Perez Balladares said in conclusion.

MATUTINO Editorial

PA312008Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 30 Aug 78 p 4-A PA

[Editorial: "Increases and Reductions"]

[Text] The public has excitedly received the recently published report that Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera plans to establish a wage increase for government employees and to also obtain an increase in current private sector wages.

In order to comment on this, we must include the text of the report that states: "The chief of government said that he had given instructions to all the sector's chiefs (ministers and managers of autonomous entities) to begin talks with government employees to promptly develop a new salary scale which will conform with the cost of living and the state's resources. After this raise, Torrijos said, the government will hold meetings with private enterprise to conduct a study and weigh the possibility of improving the wages of private enterprise workers."

The chief of government's statements cannot be clearer. They define his policy of improving the wages of government employees. He does not specify the date for such an increase because it would be childish to believe that one can immediately set the date for such a serious commitment. But he very clearly indicates that he has already "given instructions" so that there will be an exchange of opinions with government workers in order to draw up a new wage scale.

For anyone who even halfway understands our language, the quoted statement indicates that it is not a mere promise but a process that should "promptly" conclude.

We believe that in view of such a statement, which shows a willingness to approve such increases and which was made spontaneously and without pressure. it would be worthwhile for government officials and the sectors that will benefit from the increases to begin a serious study of the problem. This serious policy based on reality will prevent the various sectors of government workers from recklessly demanding increases that are not based on the scientific study of the country's economic realities.

It would likewise be wrong for the government to impose wage scales on private enterprise without studying the reality of that sector or consulting with the workers.

According to the same report, there are also plans to reduce the taxes on some articles, including automobiles, in order to decrease the cost to consumers and seek all means to achieve a perceptible reduction in the cost of living. These measures which the government is already implementing demand the participation of all Panamanians so that they can be applied with the equilibrium that will guarantee the harmonious and sure development of the country's economy. To attack that order through aspirations that have not been analyzed or agreed upon would be an attempt to carry out a dissociating, destructive and anarchic action, and it is not anarchy but moderation that Panama needs today more than ever, as it stands on the threshold of its best days.

SANDINIST COMMANDERS CITE POPULAR, NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORT

PA0102447Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Venezuelan Journalist Rafael Finol interview with Sandinist National Liberation Front Commander Uno, Hugh Torres, and Commander Dos, Dora Maria Tellex Arguello, in Panama--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Is your staying here, Commander Uno, not likely to provoke problems with your family back home? Somoza says that our affirmation that there is no peace or happiness in Nicaragua is not true. He says that there is complete freedom in Nicaragua.

[Commander Dos] We are almost certain that reprisals will be taken against our families. We know this and we have taken the risk because all Nicaraguans are taking their own risks. We do fear that some members of our families could be murdered--our parents, brothers, et cetera.

[Question] Do you have any plans to return right now?

[Commander Dos] We still have some solidarity work to do.

[Question] We are now going to speak with Commander Uno, Hugo Torres. Hugo, more than a week after leading the movement that culminated in the attack on the National Palace and your arrival in Panama, what can you tell us about the success of this mission?

[Commander Uno] For us, it is simply the satisfaction of a duty fulfilled, a job--which is big due to its political significance--completed but which, as I told other journalists, should in no way intoxicate us. It is simply that we enjoyed success because this is what a revolutionary enjoys, but we have explained the deep political significance of the action to the other fighters. They feel satisfied with its success, but they still conduct themselves with the humility which is an attribute of a Sandinist.

[Question] I was telling one of my colleagues today that I considered it unlikely that the Somoza government could be overthrown right now in spite of the good intentions and mystique of your Sandinist movement. I have the impression that General Somoza has the strong support of the National Guard, that the struggle will be hard and, as a famous Venezuelan politican once said, the mangoes are not low enough for you yet.

[Commander Uno] I believe that Somoza has not the solidarity and firm support of the National Guard, a personal guard, but even of those who maintain the guard, those who supply it with arms and materiel. Nevertheless, in our war it is not the weapons that will in the final analysis determine who will win and who will lose. In this we must learn from the experience of other peoples, which tells us that what is important is not the weapons but the desire to fight and the righteousness of the cause for which one fights. The winners in this struggle will be those who have the people on their side, the armed people, naturally. The Nicaraguan people are eminently Sandinist.

At this time it is difficult to foresee the fall of Somoza in a matter of days. The fall of Somoza as a result of a revolutionary overthrow, a maneuver of a Somoza removal, a Somozism without Somoza, a fascist military junta--all these are possibilities. Even the attempted coup d'etat was proof of this. However, for us, our movement, which has been fighting for more than 15 years in this hard struggle, a few months more is not much.

[Question] Why have you not undertaken a program to rally the new generation of the National Guard officers to your cause? They could be basic in your movement.

[Commander Uno] I think we have done it.

[Commander Dos] It does exist. There are a number of honest officers, as we call them, who are sick of Somoza's repression.

[Commander Uno] It is there, but there is fear.

[Commander Dos] They are willing and many of them are participating in the struggle from their own position.

[Question] We believe that that would be basic, right?

[Commander Dos] The National Guard is not really so solid as it appears. In my lifetime I could not remember an attempted military coup. This means that the monolithic unity of the National Guard no longer exists. There have been serious contradictions, although they have tried to disguise them, and this is important.

PANAMA-NICARAGUA COMMITTEE PROVIDES LIST OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

PA312155Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 31 Aug 78 p 40 PA

[Excerpts] The Panamanian Committee of Solidarity with Nicaragua revealed during a news conference on Tuesday a list of 20 persons who remain imprisoned by Gen Anastasio Somoza's government. Those in question are political prisoners and it is feared that many may have been murdered or died after being tortured in jail. Referring to the Panamanian Government's intervention in the release of the political prisoners and the uneventful rescue and evacuation of the National Palace, which had been taken over by the Rigoberto Lopez Perez Command, the committee said in a communique that "this decision by the Panamanian Government is one of the acts of solidarity that the Nicaraguan people will not forget."

The list was revealed yesterday during a news conference held at the newsmen's association.

BELIZE PLEASED ABOUT RENEWAL OF GUATEMALA-PANAMA TIES

PA311842Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 30 Aug 78 PA

[Report by David Martinez from Radio Belize on reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Guatemala and Panama--presumably recorded]

[Text] In a direct reply to a Martinez editorial, the political newspaper of the ruling People's United Party led by Premier George Price commented that it is Guatemala and not Panama that is retreating from its position. The newspaper said that Guatemala broke relations with Panama because it was the first Latin American country to openly express its support of the Belizean people's right to self-determination, independence and territorial integrity.

When asked to comment on the renewal of diplomatic relations between Guatemala and Panama, a government spokesman at the Ministry of State [as heard] said that the government is pleased in the same way that most of the countries of Latin America and the world must be. The peoples of Panama and Guatemala are not at war and we would not like them to be at war. He referred to the declaration of Panama's basic foreign policy principles issued last month by Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla. On the Belize issue, the declaration reiterates Panama's support for Belize's independence and territorial integrity. The spokesman added that Panama favors a direct agreement between Guatemala and Belize for a negotiated and peaceful settlement that will satisfy Belize's aspirations.

During the 10 days of festivities that the government sponsors in September to focus attention on the Belizean people's aspirations, Premier George Price will speak to the nation. It is believed that he will discuss the Belize issue. This might include a new initiative supported by the government. The current position is that the latest round of talks with Guatemala has concluded and that the parties involved are not tied to any (?prior) proposal. Neither the Belizean nor British governments have issued any statement on the renewal of talks.

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL ANNULS ELECTIONS IN TWO CORREGIMIENTOS

PA312309Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 31 Aug 78 p 40 PA

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Electoral Tribunal has reported to the communications media that Aurelio Correa E., the electoral director [fiscal electoral], has issued a ruling on the requested annulment of elections in the corregimientos of Las Margaritas, Chepo District, and Gonzalo Vasquez, Chiman District in the Province of Panama.

The Electoral Tribunal judges decided that errors and omissions mentioned in the electoral law in effect were committed; consequently, the 6 August elections in these corregimientos have been annulled, and new elections will be held within a period of no more than 15 days as prescribed by the law.

It has also been decided to uphold the proclamations made by the local election boards in the corregimientos of Chepo, Chepo District; Parque Lefevre, Panama District; and Lidice, Capira District; all in the Province of Panama.

COSTA RICA

SANDINIST COMMANDER CERO ARRIVES FROM PANAMA

PA311538Y San Jose Radio R l ... Spanish 1516 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Text] A Panamanian Air Force Electra has arrived here with Commander Cero on board. Eden Pastora, a naturalized Costa Rican citizen who some days ago attacke ..e National Palace of Nicaragua along with other Sandinists, arrived aboard the Panamanian Air Force plane accompanied by Fulgencio Macias [as heard], Panamanian ambassador to Costa Rica, to settl immigration matters. We add that a top official of the Public Security Ministry and Col Guillermo Martinez are accompanying him. He passed through immigration a few minutes ago. Commander Cero may travel from Juan Santamaria Airport to Havana, Cuba. The Panamanian Air Force Electra arrived at exactly 0835 from Tocumen, Panama.

Makes Statement to Radio

PA312016Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Statement by Sandinist leader Eden Pastora to Radio Reloj and the Inter-Central American Radio Organization afte. his arrival at Juan Santamaria Airport--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Is it true that you are going to Cuba?

[Answer] No. Cuba and Costa Rica have nothing to do with the Nicaraguans.

[Question] In other words, you are going to be a Costa Rican citizen?

[Answer] I am a Costa Rican citizen.

[Question] And you are going to live among us?

[Answer] We live here among you.

[Question] Do you fear any repressive movement that will end your life?

[Answer] Definitely, I do fear it. Somoza, Somozism is everywhere, and it is very dangerous, brother.

[Question] Will Somoza's government fall this year?

[Answer] Somoza's life is a matter of hours, brother, that is, his political life. We can start counting the Somoza government's life in hours.

FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE TO NICARAGUA REAFFIRMS NEUTRALITY

PA010221Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Sep 78 PA

[Text] The Costa Rican Government has promised Nicaragua it will maintain its neutrality. In a note sent to the Nicaraguan Government, Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier guarantees our country's neutrality. The note states that despite the fact that it does not have armed forces, the Costa Rican Government is fulfilling the 1949 and 1956 agreements and is striving to undertake greater vigilance on the northern border.

NICARAGUA

NATIONAL GUARD CONTINUES OPERATIONS AGAINST REBELS

PA312328Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2256 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Text] The situation in Matagalpa is serious. A strong attack by the National Guard took place shortly before noon in an attempt to overcome a 4-day rebellion against President Anastasio Somoza. There was intense shooting. Hundreds of civilians carrying personal belongings have begun to flee the city, which has a population of 40,000.

Red Cross volunteers said there have been many deaths and more than 100 wounded. The mopping-up operation by the National Guard began at 0830. It signaled the end of a 14-hour cease-fire between the National Guard and civilians who controlled the city. According to its conditions [as heard], the National Guard would enter the city and open fire on anyone with weapons in hand. The conditions were set in a pamphlet posted at the entrance of the main Red Cross center in the suburbs of the city. Anyone who fires at the National Guard will be pursued regardless of where he goes, the pamphlet said.

Civilians and members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front have controlled most of the city since Saturday. With the beginning of the National Guard advance, one could see soldiers exchanging gunfire with youths behind barricades made of sandbags.

The report added that [words indistinct] in unequal conditions. Eight armored cars were sent in. A Catholic nun [name indistinct], was telling the people not to be killed so uselessly [words indistinct]. The nun said there were many deaths. We have confirmed about 20 deaths during the past 48 hours. There are hundreds of wounded and the situation is grave, she added. The nun said she had been told there were many more deaths. The Red Cross [words indistinct] was almost out of plasma and (?medicine). Many refugees [words indistinct] near the shooting. Many houses in the city displayed white flags to show they were not participating in the battle.

The situation in Nicaragua is difficult since the National Guard has decided to enter Matagalpa with armored cars and helicopters. The shooting this afternoon killed many persons.

LATIN Report

PA010349Y Buenos Aires Latin in Spanish 0316 GMT 1 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpts] Matagalpa, 31 Aug (LATIN)--After several hours of bloody fighting, Nicaraguan National Guardsmen have been unable to dislodge young insurgents who have taken over most of this northern Nicaraguan city. Approximately 100 National Guardsmen were surprised by heavy fire from light weapons used by the rebels, many of whom are under 20 years old. The Matagalpa Red Cross reported that 1 civilian was killed and 13 persons, including 6 soldiers, were wounded during the first few hours of fighting.

The National Guard Command announced today that the final attack it planned to launch would be able to dislodge the insurgents who have been fighting the government forces for the past 5 days. Approximately 400 rebels armed with pistols and small-caliber rifles are supporting the general strike called by a coalition of opposition parties to overthrow the Anastasio Somoza government.

The streets of the city were almost deserted today before the military operation began. More than 30,000 of Matagalpa's 45,000 residents have sought refuge in nearby communities. The clashes have so far left a toll of 21 dead and more than 100 wounded.

The National Guardsmen, with the support of an armored car, began the attack confidently advancing toward streets that lead to the cathedral square where the rebels have erected barricades. "We are going to clean up this city in about 2 hours," an officer with a thick mustache told this correspondent. Moments later a burst of gunfire stopped the guardsmen, who responded with heavy weapons. Newsmen who at that time were in the square, where a tense calm reigned, had to seek cover quickly behind the nearest walls when the area was transformed into a battleground.

Inside the National Guard command posts, set up in a thick-walled building next to the cathedral, morale seemed to be dwindling since the soldiers' attempts to crush the insurgents' resistance in the barricades proved to be fruitless. The sound of gunfire grew louder as three young snipers found a good position to keep the government command under intense fire. The smell of gunpowder prevailed as the guardsmen began to answer the rebel fire. A sweaty soldier who was able to escape the rebel shots broke into the post. "How are things going?" He was asked. "Badly," he answered somberly.

While higher-ranking officers were giving orders constantly, the younger men admitted that the attack was a real mess. "The problem is that we have to move very carefully because there are civilians hidden in some homes," one of them explained. Outside on the streets, the shooting continues almost uninterrupted. Red Cross trucks add another note of drama with speedy runs through the streets of Matagalpa to provide assistance to the wounded. A light drizzle is falling over the city, which is located amid hills.

Red Cross officials revealed that they fear a bloodbath if the National Guard attack on the insurgents, who have light weapons, continues. Nevertheless, the young people, some of whom are no more than 12 years old, told newsmen that they will not surrender. "The adults are encouraging them," a resident said before the fight broke out today. "They, our children, are defending our homes and our families. They will continue to do so until we throw Somoza out," one old man hiding on a porch commented.

There have been disturbances in other cities in the country today. In Managua many buses were burned by demonstrators while National Guard detachments and demonstrators exchanged fire in nearby Masay.

The strike called by the coalition of opposition parties seems to have growing support. An increasing number of factories and businesses closed their doors in the capital today while transportation vehicle owners announced that buses and taxis will not run tomorrow.

Rebellion Extends to North

PA311847Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1814 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 31 Aug (AFP)--The civilian uprising in Nicaragua was extended today to the northern part of the country where rebels killed five members of the National Guard at the small outpost of Matiguas, 70 km north of Matagalpa. The rebels then occupied that cattle-raising community and spread tacks on the streets to prevent the transit of military vehicles.

The bodies of the five guardsmen were left lying at the entrance of the town. The National Guard command flew in reinforcements by helicopter upon learning of the deaths. Other reinforcements were sent by land from an antiguerrilla post at Rio Blanco, 70 km north of Matiguas.

Meanwhile, in Matagalpa, 120 km north of Managua, which for several days has been the main scene of the resistance against the Anastasio Somoza regime, violent clashes continued today between the rebels and government forces.

The rebels told the press that they were waiting for reinforcements to launch new attacks against the military outposts. Matagalpa commander Col Rafael Martinez told the archbishop who had negotiated a truce that he could not hold back his soldiers much longer since the rebels refused to put down their arms.

A guerrilla spokesman said during a telephone conversation that the civilians had killed seven National Guardsmen in Matagalpa. The spokesman also reported that Sgt Luis de Leon, wounded in combat and whose life was spared by the Sandinist guerrillas, had been finally condemned to death because he later betrayed them.

Official reports said that two National Guardsmen were wounded last night by civilians in Granada and Masaya. Another Sandinist group attacked the residence of Armando Verdugo, magistrate of the Diriamba court of appeals, and fled with cash and weapons. A bank in southwestern Managua was attacked by guerrillas this morning.

Finally unconfirmed reports claim that there have been desertions in the ranks of the National Guard in Esteli, Masaya and Managua.

INDUSTRIALISTS, CONSERVATIVE PARTY MEMBERS JOIN STRIKE

PA311520Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1310 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 31 Aug (LATIN)--Nicaraguan industrialists today began joining the merchants in the general strike called by the opposition political parties demanding the resignation of President Anastasio Somoza. The Chamber of Industries has decided to join the strike. Meanwhile, yesterday, for the first time, the financial sector was affected by the decision of some executives of one of the principal Nicaraguan banking chains to walk off their jobs.

Thus far the strike has had little visible effect in Managua, where 30 percent of the business establishments are closed, but it is reported that it has been more widely supported in some of the country's main cities.

Upon announcing their support for the strike, the industrialists criticized "the attacks against the civilian population in several towns and cities and...the use of violent insurrection to attain civic goals."

The industrialists also criticized the government's measures against the striking sectors and, specifically, the cancellation of the legal status of the Chamber of Commerce, which joined the strike on Sunday. They voiced support for the proposal to form a national government put forth by Managua Archbishop Monsignor Miguel Obando 2 weeks ago.

Except for the walkout of the group of branch executives of the Nicaraguan Bank (Banic), the activities in this sector, as well as those of the transportation sector, have remained normal.

Private Catholic schools suspended classes 1 week ago when a leftist guerrilla command occupied the National Palace and held several hundred persons hostage until its demands were met.

The Conservative Party, the only party which has congressional representation other than the ruling Liberal Party, in the majority, reiterated yesterday its support for the strike and ordered its representatives in government offices to abandon their posts.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CURRENT CRISIS

PA311531Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0431 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Dr Julio C. Quintana received newsmen in his office today to provide important information on the current situation in our country.

Foreign Minister Quintana said that the tragedy of the Nicaraguan people has been that they have always been victimized by other countries. We even had a U.S. president in the last century, the Atlantic coast was under the control of the British, we have been invaded by the U.S. Marines, and now Venezuela is taking an interventionist interest in Nicaraguan internal affairs, in matters which solely concern our country.

Dr Quintana Villanueva said, however, that at the strictly diplomatic level relations with Venezuela are cordial and normal, but as Venezuela is presently in an electoral period and the government party is afraid of losing the elections, government politicians are exploiting Nicaragua's difficulties for political propaganda purposes. Dr Quintana said that the Venezuelan Government's party politicians seek to engage in demagogic propaganda based on Nicaraguan affairs, and this is not proper. Small as it may be, he said, our country deserves the same respect which the Venezuelan politicians would show to another power.

Marxism Blamed

PA311533Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0431 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Text] We are undergoing a crisis, but it is a crisis provoked by international communism as has occurred in other countries. Now Moscovite Marxism has brought subversion to Nicaragua. We hope to overcome the crisis because the army supports the constitutional government of President Somoza, Foreign Minister Dr Julio Quintana said. The Liberal Party and the army are prepared to give all their support to the government of President Somoza, Dr Quintana said, adding that diplomatic relations with the Mexican Government are presently normal and that the Mexican foreign minister has already informed him of the appointment of a Mexican diplomat to serve as ambassador to Nicaragua.

May Resort to OAS

PA311552Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Julio C. Quintana answered newsmen's questions saying that the necessary evidence is being gathered to resort, if warranted, to OAS bodies to denounce the origin of the Sandinist-communist attacks on the nation's territory. He pointed out that Costa Rica might be one of the areas from where subversive activities are launched against our country. Dr Quintana said that (?it is in the) Russian Embassy in San Jose where guerrilla operations can be planned. The Russian Embassy currently has about [illegible] Soviet officials. Costa Rican officials are not allowed in there.

Dr Quintana also said that Fidel Castro has an obsession over Nicaragua. The invasion of [word indistinct] was financed by Havana. Castro has set up a consulate in Costa Rica which operates together with the Embassy of the Socialist Republic [remainder of the item indistinct].

NATIONAL CONGRESS REJECTS VENEZUELAN 'INTERFERENCE'

PA311536Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0431 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Text] The two chambers of the National Congress approved a resolution yesterday which rejects the interference of the Venezuelan Congress in our internal problems and condemns our sovereignty, stating that [the Venezuelan] Parliament (?condones) guerrilla warfare as a means of political action.

The resolution, based on legal arguments, reiterates that noninterference is the basic norm of relations between countries in the inter-American system.

The resolution, approved by the highest legislative body of the republic states: The two chambers of the National Congress of the Republic of Nicaragua, the genuine representative of the people's will, denies to the congress of the sister Republic of Venezuela the right to interfere in problems which are of national jurisdiction and which are the private affair of the Nicaraguan people, and rejects its authority to judge the political regime of Nicaragua, a free, sovereign and independent nation.

The history of Nicaragua, ever since its independence from Spain, is universally acknowledged as being one of heroic and stubborn struggle to keep its territory and its sovereignty indivisible and inalienable. The Nicaraguan delegations to the Panamerican conferences of Havana and Montevideo had the high honor of being the continental spokesmen for nonintervention to the point of formulating the unprecedented terms of Article Eight of the Convention on the Rights and Duties of States--that no state has the right to interfere in the internal or external affairs of others.

Asks for Colombian Support

PA311705Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The Nicaraguan Chamber of Deputies has asked the Colombian Congress for its solidarity in rejecting Venezuelan intervention in the domestic affairs of Nicaragua. The message signed by Francisco Urcuyo, president of that institution, which was addressed to the Colombian Congress reports on the events of last week when the Sandinist National Liberation Movement seized the National Palace and held many officials hostage until Somoza responded to the demands of the rebel group.

Francisco Urcuyo refers to statements made by the president of Venezuela, characterizing them as interventionist, and asks the Colombian Congress to speak out against this situation. The members of the Senate received the message with reservations. Without commenting on it, they continued their Wednesday plenary session.

COMMUNIQUE DENIES ARREST OF VENEZUELAN NEWSMEN'

PA311335Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 31 Aug 78 PA

[Communique No 48 issued by the Press and Information Secretariat of the presidency of the republic on 30 August 1978]

[Text] In view of the declarations made by Venezuelan newsman Rafael Finol which have circulated in all international news agencies and other information media--declarations to the effect that he had his cameraman, Mr Omar Vasquez, were imprisoned yesterday after the news conference given by his excellency the president of the republic, Gen Anastasio Somoza, to foreign correspondents in Managua--the Press and Information Secretariat of the presidency of the republic hereby informs the national and international public that the report on the arrest with which newsman Finol and the cameraman claim they were victimized is false.

In this regard, Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Harry Morales [as heard] received a note from the Venezuelan Embassy's acting charge d'affaires, Cornelio Sanchez, in which Sanchez inquired about the alleged arrest. After conducting the corresponding investigation, our foreign minister informed him that the accusation is completely false and groundless. That gentleman and his companion have never been arrested in Nicaragua. This is a deliberate propaganda maneuver on the part of the gentleman. Mr Cornelio Sanchez, acting charge d'affaires at the Venezuelan Embassy, clearly understood this and said he would report this to his government.

Deputy Foreign Minister Morales expresses the hope that the Venezuelan Government would not be misled by this new lie. All the authorities in the country, the police in Managua, the Investigation Department and the Security Department, when asked about the alleged arrest of the Venezuelan newsmen, said that they have not been arrested by the authorities in Nicaragua. Thus, the lack of veracity of those reports has been clearly established.

The acting Venezuelan charge d'affaires in our country talked to the aforementioned newsmen today just before they left the country this afternoon.

LATE REPORT: EXPLOSIONS HEARD IN MANAGUA; FSLN COMMUNIQUE

PA011317Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1256 GMT 1 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Bomb explosions were heard last night in various sectors of the Nicaraguan capital. The explosions were clearly heard at ACAN-EFE offices. The bomb explosions had previously been heard sporadically, but last night they were heard consecutively. It is feared that there may be an intensification of violence in Managua.

Communique number one, entitled "Freedom," issued by the Prolonged People's War Faction of the Sandinist Front is being circulated. It states that the resistance in Matagalpa is being carried out by that guerrilla group. The Sandinist National Liberation Front adds that in the confrontations in that city, Harold Miranda, the first cousin of guerrilla Dos who participated in the attack on the National Palace, was killed.

'Yankee Interference' Denounced

PA010220Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Sandinist forces are confronting the Nicaraguan Government in Matagalpa. The Sandinist National Liberation Front has said that the struggle has begun against the army, which supports Somoza. We will respond to any Yankee interference, a communique issued by the FSLN states. The Sandinist Front denounces before the world the Yankee interference to protect the Somoza government. The FSLN issued a call to the people to stop any coupist maneuver. The capitalist forces seek a solution [words indistinct] without Somoza, the FSLN says.

NICARAGUANS FREED BY SANDINISTAS ARRIVE IN HAVANA

FL312120Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 31 Aug 78 FL

[Text] A group of 22 Nicaraguan patriots who were freed from Somoza jails as part of the conditions demanded by the command that took over the Nicaraguan National Palace arrived in Havana this afternoon. Doris Tijerino and Rene Nunez Telles, members of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, traveled at the head of the Central American country's combatants, among whom there are six women.

The Panamanian Air Force plane that brought to Cuba the Nicaraguan revolutionaries recently released from prison landed at 1335 this afternoon at Jose Marti International Airport. On behalf of the Cuban party, government and people, Ulises Estrada, second chief of the PCC Central Committee's America Department, gave the group a very solidary welcome and asserted that the Cuban people feel very close to the Nicaraguan people's struggle. Do not feel that Cuba is a country which formally has granted you asylum. Instead, it is a land which opens its doors as if it were your own home, Ulises Estrada said upon welcoming the 22 Nicaraguan patriots who arrived in Havana today.

Doris Tijerino, whose husband Jose Benito Escobar died heroically a few months ago in the Nicaraguan mountains, expressed gratitude for the hospitable welcome saying they know that every Cuban is their brother.

In statements to the press, Rene Nunez Telles, member of the FSNL National Directorate, said that the prospects for the struggle in Nicaragua are now positive. He described the situation there as explosive. He stressed, above all, the rebelliousness and fighting spirit demonstrated by the Nicaraguan people, citing the example of the general strike which is spreading throughout Nicaragua against the bloody Somoza tyranny.

The Sandinistas who arrived in Havana today include (Sofia Reyes), age 21, who was confined to a Managua jail with seven other comrades in a cell 2 by 3 meters in size. Another of the revolutionaries liberated by the Sandinista command, (Alejandro Padilla), reported that since his capture on 20 January 1975 in Matagalpa he was subjected to beatings and tortures witn electric rods so he would reveal where the guerrillas were located in the mountains. (Padilla) said that after his transfer from the Managua security offices to the ill-named Modelo prison, he was held incommunicado for 3 months and was allowed to see his family only after many demands.

These Nicaraguan patriots are part of a group of slightly more than 50 former prisoners of war liberated by a Sandinista command.

Interviewed for Television

FL010138Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Sep 78 FL

[Text] [Reporter] (?The cameras) of national television news are located at Jose Marti International Airport where a group of Nicaraguan political prisoners have just arrived. They were freed as a result of the action carried out by the Rigoberto Lopez Perez command of the Sandinista National Liberation Front [FSLN], which demanded, among other things, that the tyrant Somoza release Nicaraguan political prisoners. What is your name, comrade?

[Answer] Doris Maria Tijerino Haslma.

[Reporter] And your name, comrade?

[Answer] Rene Nunez Telles.

[Reporter] I see that there are many women in the group.

[Tijerino] We were a total of eight, and six of us are here today.

[Reporter] I see. What was the total number of arrivals?

[Tijerino] Twenty-two.

[Reporter] Twenty-two. In other words, there are many comrades still in (?Panama).

[Tijerino] Yes.

[Reporter] I would like you, comrade, to tell us the ideological position of the group.

[Tijerino] In that case, I would prefer that my comrade be the one to answer because of his position within the organization.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct.]

[Nunez] Yes, of course. We are members of the FSLN. Our organization is revolutionary. We follow the lead of Sandino, the general of free men and Nicaragua's first anti-imperialist fighter. We are definitely anti-imperialists. Logically, we want to gain a new life for our people, a new society, and to this end we rely on the work we have done in Nicaragua and on the solidarity of the world's people, especially the Cuban people who have demonstrated their (?solidarity) with our struggle.

[Reporter] What do you think of the prospects for the struggle in Nicaragua?

[Nunez] We see the prospects at this time as being quite positive. We believe that our organization has done extensive work among the masses in Nicaragua. Our people are Sandinistas from every point of view. Furthermore, our people have demonstrated their generosity, heroism, rebelliousness, determination to fight and anti-Somoza activity. From every point of view we believe that the victory will be for us, for the Nicaraguan people.

[Reporter] What can you say about the concept of unity of the group?

[Nunez] The concept...?

[Reporter] Of unity.

[Nunez] Within the Nicaraguan struggle there are logically certain sectors in which there [words indistinct] some sort of struggle against Somoza. We can assert, however, that the Nicaraguan revolutionary forces, the Sandinista forces, are, in fact, guided in practice and in their actions by a single objective, a single guideline, a single action. There might exist certain minor problems which can be solved, but they do not represent any obstacle for us to convert our work and our struggle into a certain gain for the Nicaraguan people.

[Reporter] What can you say in connection with the current situation being experienced by the Somoza tyranny as a result of the great revolt that has been created in Nicaragua following the assault on the National Palace by the Rigoberto Lopez Perez Sandinista command?

[Nunez] We can say that the current activities of our people--in other words, the rebellions in various parts of the country--are the result of an entire process of struggle in Nicaragua--specifically, the product of Nicaraguan [words indistinct] forces. In other words, the result of years of work and organization. There are various (?explosive) actions which push the people into more violent and decisive actions. In any case, all this is not a coincidence and not the result of isolated blows. It is the result of a process, a development that we have been carrying out in Nicaragua for a long time, especially raising the awareness of our Nicaraguan people and raising the people's organizational level. And we believe that everything that has happened are things that are basically organized, directed and guided by the [words indistinct] in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] You probably know that several days ago the tyrant Somoza asked the Nicaraguan Congress for a 3-month leave of absence. What is your opinion on this, which we could call a maneuver?

[Nunez] We had heard about it but not in detail. Somoza has been constant in frequently asking the congress for permission primarily to go to the United States. Logically such requests involve definite political objectives on the part of Somoza, particularly to personally learn the position of imperialism toward him. At this time when Comocismo is experiencing a very serious crisis, it is logical for him to learn on a personal basis--in other words, at the scene--what he can expect from the United States so he can more or less know what his current position is and what he has to do about it. Logically we believe that this Somoza absence is the result of his crisis, the result of the revolutionary development in Nicaragua, the result of the blows dealt to Somocismo.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, comrades. Do you have anything else to add?

[Tijerino] Only that ever since we were released from jail we wanted to come to Cuba and we feel truly gratified for being here on truly free territory in Latin America.

[Reporter] You must feel just as if you were in your own home.

[Tijerino] Of course.

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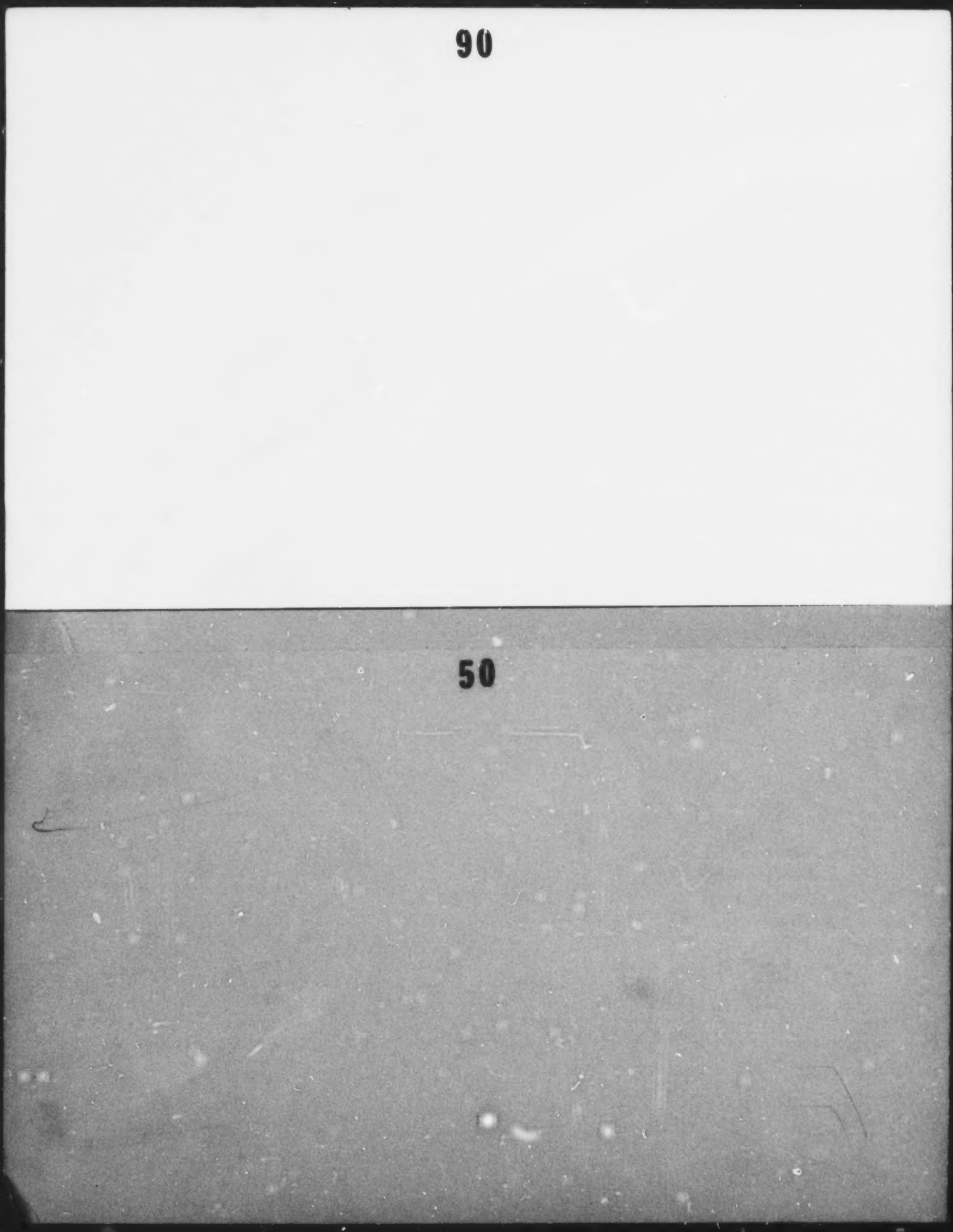
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